United Nations S/2005/201

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 March 2005
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement concerning voluntary surrenders and transfers of indictees to The Hague, issued on 16 March 2005 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **Hoscheit**
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

05-28247 (E) 280305 280305

Annex to the letter dated 17 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement concerning voluntary surrenders and transfers of indictees to The Hague, issued on 16 March 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union reiterates that the progress made towards European integration by each of the countries of the Western Balkans depends on its efforts to fulfil all of the Copenhagen criteria and the stabilization and association process requirements, including full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Recalling its statement of 10 March 2005, the European Union welcomes the increasing number of voluntary surrenders and transfers of indictees from Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo, and from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Continuation of that trend should lead to that all indictees continuing to evade international justice are in the end brought before the tribunal. The European Union repeats that Governments in the region bear a key responsibility in this process. Full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by the countries of the Western Balkans continues to be an essential requirement for their further progress towards the European Union, to which the European Union remains committed.